

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209741

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 209741 ACTION LISBON INFO LUANDA
LOURENCO MARQUES USUN DATED 23 SEP

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, US

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FONMIN SOARES VISIT

1. IN EYES OF PORTUGUESE EMBASSY, SOARES WASHINGTON
VISIT WENT WELL. HE WAS GIVEN LUNCHESES BY SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE, BY WASHINGTON POST AND WASHINGTON
STAR. HE CALLED ON GEORGE MEANY AND SAW LEONARD WOODCOCK.
HE MADE SEPARATE CALLS ON SENATORS KENNEDY AND JACKSON
AND HELD A DISCUSSION WITH ABOUT 25 AMERICANS REPRESENTING
COMPANIES INVESTING IN PORTUGAL, AS WELL AS MEETING
PORTUGUESE COLONY.

2. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO TOLD US THAT SENATOR KENNEDY HAD
PROMISED TO VISIT PORTUGAL IN NOVEMBER. HE SAID ALSO THAT
WOODCOCK OF UAW HAD PROMISED TO TALK TO PRESIDENT FORD AND
SECRETARY ABOUT NEED FOR STRONG ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR
PORTUGAL. THEMIDO SAID SOARES WAS LESS ENCHANTED BY
MEANY, WHO DID NOT SEEM TO BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED BUT
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DID AGREE TO SEND SOMEONE ON VISIT FROM AFL PARIS OFFICE.

3. DEPTOFFS WERE PRESENT AT SOARES SESSION WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN. THERE SOARES OUTLINED NEED FOR CONTINUED FOREIGN INVESTMENT BUT SAID PORTUGAL DOES NOT WISH TO BE COLONIZED BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. HE STRESSED NEED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE TO BE CARRIED OUT, INASMUCH AS

THIS SECTOR OVERLOOKED UNDER PREVIOUS REGIME, BUT SAID THAT WITHIN THAT CONTEXT, AMERICANS WERE WELCOME TO COME AND INVEST FREELY. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT SOCIALIST PARTY PLATFORM ADVOCATING NATIONALIZATION, SOARES SAID THAT EXCEPT FOR CENTRAL BANK (BANK OF ISSUE), NATIONALIZATION WOULD BE LEFT ON BACK BURNER. HE SOUNDED REASSURING ON FUTURE OF INVESTMENTS IN EX-COLONIES, NOTING THAT FRELIMO REPRESENTATIVES HAD TOLD HIM THAT IN MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, AND ESPECIALLY CABORA BASSAOPERATION, WOULD CONTINUE AS BEFORE.

4. WASHINGTON POST'S EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLE BY STEPHEN ROSENFELD IN SEPTEMBER 21 ISSUE WAS COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT SOARES AND WHAT HE AND OTHER PORTUGUESE LEADERS WERE DOING FOR DECOLONIZATION AND AT HOME IN PREPARATION FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. ARTICLE SAID SOARES "LOOKS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE ECONOMIC AID, CHIEFLY IN THE FORM OF CREDITS ON FAVORABLE TERMS, "TO HELP STABILIZE DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL." ROSENFELD CONCLUDES BY SAYING SOARES "SPEAKS FOR A GOVERNMENT WHICH FACES IMMENSE PROBLEMS AND WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES, WITHOUT THREAT OR COYNESS, ITS NEED FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT. IT IS RARE THAT ONE SEES SUCH A CLEAR-CUT INSTANCE IN WHICH AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING CAN SPUR THE FORTUNES OF A STRUGGLING DEMOCRATIC ENTERPRISE ABROAD. THIS IS WHAT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP OUGHT TO BE ABOUT."

5. THEMIDO SAID THAT SOARES WAS WELL-PLEASED BY VISIT, ESPECIALLY BY CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY AT BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 20TH, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH REPORTED ON SEPARATELY.

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